

critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T. M. Kraus



March 6, 1957 Vol IX No 16 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest-10th yr--\$25 a year

This Week

A major cast change in Tennessee Williams' Orpheus Descending due to open March 21 at Martin Beck finds film actor Cliff Robertson replacing Robert Loggia. Latter will leave cast end of week in Philadelphia due to "altered concept in the leading male character." Play is a re-write of Williams' Battle of the Angels which folded 15 years ago in Boston on its pre-Broadway tryout.

Plays

The Potting Shed will continue at another house after April 20...Maiden Voyage opening pushed to March 20 to allow time for adjustment of the physical production...Hide and Seek also pushed debut forward to week of April 2...Ziegfeld Follies reports standess at first week-end performances, plus \$500,000 advance...Auntie Mame will continue with a name player during Rosalind Russell's film leave next Jan...Actors Fund benefit of Waltz of Toreadors postponed due to Ralph Richardson's throat ailment, Chris Gampel had been subbing.

Players

Jerry Lewis concluded Palace vaude stand...Dennis King to star in The Greatest Man Alive by Tony Webster, due May 8...Menasha Skulnik, Uncle Willie, was in auto crash one hour before curtain Mar 6 on W 45. He was uninjured, but his car went out of control hurting a pedestrian...Paul Hartman to star in Pajama Game revival at City Center...Erik Rhodes signed for featured role in Shinbone Alley...Joseph Warren replaced Tonio Selwart, Hidden River.

Calendar

3 Irish Play by Synge- Theatre East-211 E 60 3/6. Irish Players directed by Patricia Newall...Good as Gold - Belasco 3/8. Crawford & Myers present new John Patrick comedy with Roddy McDowall, Paul Ford, Zero Mostel...Wedding in Japan-Greystone-91st & Bway 3/11. Revival of Ted Pollock play...Exiles -Renata-144 Bleecker, Broun & Frederik present James Joyce only play.

Other Broadways

New \$3 million legit house to be built in Toronto due to open in October. Queen Elizabeth Theatre will seat 1355...J B Priestley's The Glass Cage opened at Crest Theatre, Toronto.

Theatre TV Notes

Nanette Fabray to star in TV adaptation of The Last of Mrs. Cheyney Mar 17 NBC on Alcoa...NBC to present 2 hour spectacular this fall celebrating Irving Berlin's 50th anniversary in music business...26 films by Abbey Players planned for TV.

Theatre Film Notes

Fred Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner to do score for film Gigi...Katharine Cornell to produce and star in film Candida...Karl Malden to direct film Time Limit.

Student Tickets

Free tickets for children under 13 at week-end performances if accompanied by adult given by Taming of Shrew at Phoenix.

Digests of Current NYC Theatre Reviews

A Hole in the Head- Longacre- 2/8. 3 pro reviews--Times, Post, Journal American- and 3 con reviews filed on new comedy by Arnold Schulman starring Paul Douglas. Wide range of viewpoints recorded on Producers Theatre production, staged by Garson Kanin. Rave notices from Atkinson, Times, and McClain, Journal American. Former credited author with composing a tender and humorous drama out of some commonplaces of US life. Play is triumphantly homely and honest, making the theatre look like a part of the living record of mankind. Latter raved over professional techniques of cast triumphing over a wispy story. Roles, Journal American man praised, are expertly cast, timing is exact and the final fluid of pathos and humor is drained from every small scene. Watts, Post, joined pro side, but in milder vein, for the delightful comic acting of Douglas, David Burns, Kay Medford and young Tommy White. Dissenters Kerr, Herald Tribune, and Donnelly, World Telegram & Sun, each found a few effective scenes, but doubted if they were enough for a full evening of comedy. Though the bits and pieces are often independently interesting, Kerr, feared the hole was in the center of the play. The whole business adds up to little, WT&S aisle sitter, concluded. Harsh negative veto from Chapman, News, who panned it as boring and irritating. He considered it a one-joke show on money.

Ziegfeld Follies-Winter Garden 3/1 4 mild okays for Bea Lillie, but none for musical- recorded on Mark Kroll-Charles Conway revue. Though all critics admitted they are devoted fans of Miss Lillie, only News, Mirror, Post, and Journal American reviewers thought show worth seeing for her alone. Times, Herald Tribune and World-Telegram & Sun panned it as dull show, lacking in funny sketches, good songs. On the positive side, Chapman, News, considered current edition a handsome and enjoyable big revue, with Bea Lillie splendid, some good sketches, attractive dances, and a song or two the audience liked. Coleman, Mirror, also agreed that Lillie and Billy De Wolfe were hilarious in the sketches. McClain, Journal American, applauded Lillie for stopping the show, but really didn't think much of the other material. Watts, Post, filed his mild pro for Lillie, De Wolfe, Jay Marshall, Harold Lang and Helen Wood. Nay vote from Atkinson, Times, because critic feared that like everything else that is mortal, the Follies is susceptible to the infirmities of old age and shows symptoms of tired blood. Lillie's material is tenuous and thin, he added. Kerr, Herald Tribune, okayed show-stopper song by Jane Morgan, Micki Marlo and Carol Lawrence, but quietly put in his private wish for a funny writer Poor Bea Lillie stranded without material, summed Donnelly, WT & S.

Right You Are-Carl Fischer Hall - 3/4. 2 mild pros- Times and Mirror- and 2 cons- Post and World-Telegram & Sun- listed for J E Schenker revival of Pirandello's comedy, starring Erik Rhodes, in new adaption by Eric Bentley. Gelb, Times, enjoyed play mostly when major characters pit their fiery emotions against one another. Then the play takes on meaning and suspense, otherwise minor characters, he noted, tend to get too cute. Coleman, Mirror, enjoyed amusing revival with pace, satiric bite and compassion. But Herridge, Post, vetoed project because current adaption not as provocative as previous., mostly because the cast is uneven and the direction not skilled enough. Donnelley, WT&S, panned it for missing the light, glittering speed.

The Doctor Inspite of Himself-Tempo- 2/27. 1 mild pro-Women Wear- and 2 Cons-Times and Post-filed on Afternoon Theatre, Inc. production of Moliere classic. R. C., Women Wear, found performance pleasant, if bumbling. Skedge Miller in title role held up play single-handedly, he approved. Gelb, Times, and Herridge, Post panned it for its unskilled, but loud, cast. Group plans to raise money to present 6 PM performances for 13 to 19 year olds. But critics noted that even for this group, play was poorly done.

London Theatre



Plays

Musical version of Zuleika Dobson cut title to Zuleika for March 5 Manchester debut, prior to London opening. Book adapted by James Ferman, who also has done lyrics. Peter Tranchell did music... Titus Andronicus production of Shakespeare Memorial Theatre with Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh to be presented in London after Paris Festival in May... Boy on the Corner with Max Bygraves postponed.

Club Theatres

The Wit to Woo by Mervyn Peake will be presented at Arts March 13 with Colin Gordon... A View From Bridge at Comedy reached 150th performance. 44,000 members have joined New Watergate Theatre Club... Season at New Lin-day starting March 6 to contain segments of plays never presented in England, staged by Jimmy Wax. They Called Him Jonah by Kenneth White, The Benefactor by Leonard Ansell, The Cactus Garden by David Campton, Night Without Morning by Thierry Maulnier are plays scenes will be shown from.

London Calendar

March 6-New Playwrights 1957 at New Lindsay... March 7- A Hatful of Rain at Princes... March 12- Lysistrata-Oxford... March 13- The Wit to Woo at Arts.



For Stage Struck Only



*This weekly NYC newsletter digests----Complete theatre news(page 1), reviews of all openings(page 2), comments by critics(page 6.)

* Plus NYC critics suggestions on theatre books, records. (page 7.)



* Plus Off Broadway and Full Summer Theatre coverage (page 7). London (page 3.)

* Plus complete business & critical data on all current shows(page 4 & 5.)

*10th year. Includes free research service for subscribers. \$25 per year subscription with free yearly spring binder.

Special Bulletin Board Edition



*Little Theatre Groups
*Drama Departments
*Libraries
*Business Offices
* Newspapers

* Consists of specially printed edition--four double pages printed on one side only for posting on C. D. bulletin board for all members to keep fully informed.



* Plus free 20" by 30" bulletin board to post weekly edition. Plus regular edition of C. D. (with yearly spring binder.)

* Available to above groups when request for special edition accompanies subscription \$25 per year complete.

CRITICAL DIGEST---139 E 47, NYC.

 Mar 6, 1957 PLAYERS GUIDE chart of CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC- EL 5-6894

This weekly chart of CRITICAL DIGEST, the weekly NYC theatre newsletter, presents up-to-date data on current business and critical reception of all current Broadway and Off-Broadway shows. Subscribers to CRITICAL DIGEST may write or phone for any other specific data or for late reviews.

"C". Critics- figures refer to percentage of PRO reviews filed by NYC daily drama critics. PRO means show was recommended as entertaining and/or stimulating, not if critic predicted if show would run or not.

"B". Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales of past week and preceding weeks. "B" figures- refer to past week's attendance. "Cap." -figures refer to capacity of house. Figures that follow are gross estimates by Variety for past week and preceding weeks. All figures are in thousands of dollars. Thus "Cap \$45--\$43 \$41 \$43"--" means that capacity of house is \$45,000, last week's sales \$43,000, previous week \$41,000, etc.

 AUNTIE MAME 238 W 44
 Broadhurst \$5.75
 BELLS ARE RINGING 230 W 44
 Shubert \$7.50
 DIARY ANNE FRANK 229 W 49
 Ambassador \$5.75
 DAWN YANKEE 226 W 46
 46th St \$8.05
 HAPPIEST MILLION, 150 W 45
 Lyceum \$5.75
 HAPPY HUNTING 245 W 44
 Majestic \$8.05
 HIDDEN RIVER 137 W 48
 Playhouse \$5.75
 HOLE IN HEAD 236 W 45
 Plymouth \$6.25
 HOLIDAY LOVERS 250 W 48
 Longacre \$5.75
 INHERIT WIND 208 W 41
 National \$5.75
 LIL ABNER 235 W 44
 St James, \$8.05
 100% C- 2 Pro- Post, J. Am.
 80% B- Cap \$25--\$23
 90% C- Funke, sole con vote-Times.
 85% B- Cap \$30--\$27 \$22 \$21 \$25 \$25 \$20 \$21
 60% C- 3 Con- Trib, J. Am. WT & S
 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58 \$58

100% C- Mostly for R. Russell, 0% minus her
 100% B- Cap \$43--\$43 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43 \$43
 80% C- 2 Con show-Times, WT&S--100% Judy
 100% B- Cap \$55--\$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55 \$55
 100% C- Unanimous praise Pulitzer Prize
 65% B- Cap \$28--\$21- 1st week at house
 100% C- Unanimous praise cast & music
 80% B- Cap \$50--\$41- \$34 \$34 \$37 \$41 \$33 \$30
 60% C- 3 Con- Trib, Post, J. Am.
 95% B- Cap \$26--\$25 \$23 \$23 \$23 \$25 \$23 \$191
 100% C- for Merman-10% C-Mirror, sole show
 100% B- Cap \$70--\$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70 \$70
 90% C- 1 Con- Mirror
 65% B- Cap \$30--\$20 \$17 \$19 \$20 \$17
 40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Amer.

20% C- 2 Pro- Post, J. Am.
 80% B- Cap \$25--\$23
 90% C- 1 Con- Mirror
 65% B- Cap \$30--\$20 \$17 \$19 \$20 \$17
 40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Amer.

20% C- 2 Pro- Post, J. Am.
 80% B- Cap \$25--\$23
 90% C- 1 Con- Mirror
 65% B- Cap \$30--\$20 \$17 \$19 \$20 \$17
 40% C- 3 Pro- Times, Post, J. Amer.

LONG DAYS 230 W 46
 Hayes \$6.90
 MAJOR BARBARA 245 W 45
 Morosco \$6.90
 MIDDLE NIGHT 250 W 52
 ANTA \$5.75
 MOST HAPPY FELLA 249 W 45
 Imperial \$7.50
 MY FAIR LADY 1655 Bway
 Hellingner \$8.05
 NO TIME SGTS 249 W 52
 Alvin \$5.75
 POTTING SHED 209 W 45
 Bijou \$5.25
 SEPARATE TABLES 239 W 45
 Music Box \$5.75
 TUNNEL OF LOVE 239 W 45
 Royale \$5.75
 VISIT S. PLANET 231 W 45
 Booth \$5.75
 UNCLE WILLIE 252 W 45
 Golden \$5.75
 WALTZ TOREADORS 259 W 49
 Coronet \$5.75
 ZIEGFELD FOLLIES 1634 Bway
 W. Garden \$8.05

100% Raves for O'Neill play & cast.
 100% B- Cap \$30--\$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30 \$30
 70% C- 2 Con- Times, Tribune
 85% B- Cap \$37--\$31 \$28 \$29 \$31 \$35 \$34 \$31
 20% C- 2 Pro Play-Mir, J. Am- 100% C-Robinson
 85% B- Cap \$40--\$31 \$26 \$28 \$27 \$31 \$27 \$29
 90% C- 1 Con- H. Tribune
 100% B- Cap \$57--\$48 \$50 \$54 \$57 \$53 \$52
 100% C- Unanimous praise for musical-cast
 100% B- Cap \$64--\$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64 \$64
 100% C- Unanimous praise for sadder comedy
 95% B- Cap \$38--\$36 \$30 \$30 \$32 \$35 \$27 \$29
 100% C- Unanimous praise for play-cast
 95% B- Cap \$50--\$49 \$18 \$17 \$17

100% C- Unanimous praise for Eng. twin-bill
 95% B- Cap \$31--\$28 \$26 \$27 \$28 \$28 \$28 \$29
 30% C- 2 Pro- Trib, News
 100% B- Cap \$34--\$34 \$34
 100% C- Mostly for Ritchard-Mayehoff antics
 100% B- Cap \$27--\$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27
 100% C- Skulnik, 0% C- Minus him
 80% B- Cap \$24--\$19 \$15 \$17 \$19 \$17 \$19 \$14
 90% C- 1 Con- WT & S
 75% B- Cap \$35--\$26 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27
 60% C-4 Pro Lillie-News, Mir, Post, J. Am-
 1634 Bway
 C1 5-4878

100% C- Mostly for Ritchard-Mayehoff antics
 100% B- Cap \$27--\$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27
 100% C- Skulnik, 0% C- Minus him
 80% B- Cap \$24--\$19 \$15 \$17 \$19 \$17 \$19 \$14
 90% C- 1 Con- WT & S
 75% B- Cap \$35--\$26 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27 \$27
 60% C-4 Pro Lillie-News, Mir, Post, J. Am-
 1634 Bway
 C1 5-4878

"RATINGS OF NYC CRITICS"

1956-57 season ratings of NYC drama critics on CURRENT Broadway shows by CRITICAL DIGEST. "75%" figures are percentages of pro votes in comparison to con votes on current shows. Variety 1955-56 and 1954-55 season figures are percentages of favorable reviews for entire season.

24 shows	CD %	Pro	Con	1954-55	1955-56
Atkinson, Times	70%	18	6	.490	.607
Kerr, H. Trib	70%	17	7	.394	.394
Chapman, News	90%	22	2	.527	.580
Mirror	85%	20	4	.454	.566
With Post	90%	22	2	.541	.426
McClain, J. Amer.	95%	21	3	.535	.532
Donnelly, WT & S	77%	17	7	.306	.549

*(Hawkins 1955)

CALENDAR "

" THEATRE

Right! You Are—Fletcher 3/4
 3 Days Play—Theatre East 3/6
 Good As Gold—Belasco 3/7
 Wedding in Japan—Greystone 3/11
 Exile—Renaix 3/12
 Sin of Pat Muldoon—Cort 3/13
 Baggart's Opera—City Center 3/13
 Trojan Women—Theatre Marquee 3/18
 Duchess of Malfi—Phoenix 3/19
 Showing Up of Bianco—Provincetown 3/19
 Maiden Voyage—Barrimore 3/20
 Orpheus Descending—Beck 3/21

" TV THEATRE PROGRAMS "

Mar 1- NBC- Shadow and Substance-on Mace Theatre
 Mar 3- CBS- My Fair Lady Salute on Ed Sullivan
 Mar 4- CBS- The Great Gilday on Ed Sullivan
 Mar 4- Romeo & Juliet- with Old Vic Productions Showcase
 Mar 4- NBC- You Told Me- with Oscar Homolka on Matinee Theatre
 Mar 7- CBS- Charley's Aunt- on Playhouse 90
 Mar 11- NBC- Carfreeze Tree- on Matinee Theatre
 Mar 17- NBC- There Shall Be No Night- with K. Cornell on Hallmark
 Mar 31- CBS- Cinderella by Rodgers & Hammerstein with Julie Andrews
 Apr 1- NBC- Great Sebastians- with Lunt on Producers Showcase
 Apr 8- NBC- Victoria Regina with Claire Bloom on Montgomery
 Apr 10- NBC- Yeoman of Guard- with Alfred Drake on Hallmark
 May 11- NBC- George M. Cohan story with Mickey Rooney

"CD VIEWS ON CURRENT SHOWS"

PROS: Damn Yankees, Diary Anne Frank, Happiest Millionaire, Hidden River Hole in Head, Long Days Journey, Most Happy Fella, Potting Shed, Separate Tables, Tunnel of Love, Uncle Willie, Waits of Toreadors Icanam Cometh, Me Candido, Purple Duet, Take Giant Step, in King Charles

CONS: Holiday for Lovers, Middle Night, Ziegfeld Follies Volpone

OFF BROADWAY "

ANATOMIST	62 E 4	2 Con- Times, Post
ROY \$3	GR 5-9647	
BOX WATERCOLORS	56 & Busy	2 Con- Times, Variety- SUNDAYS 5 PM only
Busy Chapel	CI 7-0387	
DOCTOR FAUSTUS	316 W 57	2 Pro- Times, Journal American
Blacktrial \$2.60	CI 7-0236	1 Con - Post
DOCTOR INSPIRE OF	4 St Marks Pl	
Tempo \$3		2 Con- Times, Post
ICEMAN COMETH	5 Sher Sq	6 Pro- Times, Trib, Mir, J. Am, WTAS, Post
Circle \$3.60	OR 5-9437	
IN KING CHARLES	85 E 4	6 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, WTAS, Mir, Variety
Downtown \$3.45	OR 3-4412	
LADYS NOT FOR	56 & Busy	4 Pro- Times, Trib, Mir, Post
Carn Play \$3.60	CI 6-6650	
ME CANDIDO	131 E 13	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety
G, News	CH 2-9831	
PURPLE DUST	31 Commerce	4 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, WTAS
Cherry Lane \$3.85	CH 2-4468	2 Con- News, J. Am.
RIGHT YOU ARE	165 W 57	2 Pro- Times, Mir
FL Fischer \$3.45	PL 7-2027	2 Con- WT & S, Post
TAKE GANT STEP	351 E 74	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, Women Wear, Variety
Jen Hus \$3.45	LY 6-8947	1 Con- J. American
TAMING SHREW	2nd & 12th	4 Pro- News, Mir, Post, J. Am
Phoenix \$3.45	AL 4-0525	3 Con- Times, Trib, WT & S
PENNY OPERA	121 Chris.	3 Pro- Times, Trib, Post
De Lys \$4.55	WA 4-8782	
UTOPIA, LTD	264 W 87	5 Pro- Times, Trib, Post, J. Am, WT & S
Shakes \$3.45	SU 7-2277	
VOLPONE	111 E Houston	4 Pro- Times, Mir, WT & S, WomenWear
Reefing \$3.60	OR 7-8320	4 Con- Trib, Post, News, Variety



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT

WHO NEEDS REVIEWS... So many intangibles are involved in a theatrical venture, that the importance of critical opinion is overrated, details McClain, *Journal American*. Word-of-mouth grapevine, the expenditure for adroit publicity and advertising, the drawing power of a particular star can make all the difference. For musicals there is a large and avid audience, and they have to be dreary indeed not to attract attendance from the expense-account fireman, critic notes.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... Watts, *Post*, corrects *Fireside Theatre* blurb for Terence Rattigan play. Critic billed him as "ablest of contemporary English playwrights," not as "abelest of contemporary playwrights"... If CBS produces Pamela L. Travers' children's stories about Mary Poppins on Broadway. Chapman, *News*, suggests Mildred Natwick for Mary Poppins... Accomplishments of off-Broadway theatre listed by McClain, *Journal American*, include offering good, low-priced entertainment and giving employment to "available" Equity actors that test tests their talents to the fullest.

COLUMN TIPS... Major Barbara curtain 20 minutes late one night due to Burgess Meredith oversleeping, whispers Winchell... Several current musicals had to rush in chorus girl replacements because of dancers who joined George Abbott's new show, reports Kilgallen... Three major legit ad agencies balking at usual 5% rebate to producers, passes on Sobol.

DRAMA MAIL-BOX... Wide diversity of viewpoint in two *Times* letters on *Tunnel of Love*. One reader views it as vulgar and tasteless, while another can't understand why critics found it risqué... A "C. D." subscriber interested in number of comedies that critics have panned this season, but which same critics admit had high popular appeal from first night audience.

TV WASTES THEATRES... \$7000 week rent for Ziegfeld which NBC uses for two shows per week is highlight of survey made by *Show Business* on how TV wastes the legit theatres they are holding. Hudson Theatre now used only for Sunday night Steve Allen show, Century Theatre used only for Saturday Sid Caesar show, Colonial used only on alternate Sundays for Ray Bolger show.

INTERVIEW HI-LITES... Tennessee Williams sees the moral contribution of his plays as exposing what he considers to be untrue, he told Ross, *Herald Tribune*. He also noted that he does not write for frivolous reasons. He writes to express himself, though he also wants to succeed as an entertainer. Playwright added that though he has never written for money, he is always glad to get it. When critics write that of him, he fears they are avaricious themselves. With what he knows about the theatre, he is sure that he could really write for money if he wanted to... A British audience does not like to be sentimentally and sexually titillated, Peter Glenville, director of *Hotel Paradiso*, told Donnelley, *World Telegram & Sun*. If a character in a play has something to say about sex that's important, the British will go along with it. An English audience is never shocked by any Analysis of sex.



OFF BROADWAY

An Off-Broadway Theatre Box-office has been established at 131 W 46 by the Off-Broadway Theatre Association. Located in the Hotel Remington it sells tickets to ten off-Broadway theatres at no service charge. The theatres pay 20 cents per ticket toward the operating expenses of the co-op enterprise.

Livin' the Life is new title of musical version of "Tom Sawyer" to be presented at Phoenix April 25, music by Jack Urbont, book by Dale Wasserman and Bruce Geller... Wayside, a new play by John Duff Stradley, will be presented at Barbizon Plaza April 18, Bruce Marcus director... Thayer David will portray title role in revival of Oscar Wilde, due in April, directed by Bill Penn.

Brazilian twin-bill at Provincetown closed after one week run... William Goyen's House of Breath will be presented on a Mon. night at Circle in Square, Michael Murray director... The Circus of Dr. Lao, by Nathaniel Benchley and Gwyn Conger, optioned by Noel Behn.

Gate Theatre, 162 Second Av at 10th St, due to open in April. Former quarters of the Second Ave Baptist Tabernacle molded into two theatres-250 and 135 seats-by Lily Turner... On Whitman Avenue to be revived for 3 week-ends at West End Collegiate Chapel, 245 W 77.

Judith Page taken over as Dolly in Three Penny Opera... Jan Farrand taken over role left by Nancy Wickwire in Duchess of Malfi at Phoenix March 19... Ballet star Diana Adams to make legit debut in The Trojan Women March 18 at Theatre Marquee.



THEATRE BOOK



COMMENTS

"Broadway in a Barn" by Charlotte Harmon and Rosemary Taylor (Crowell) was rated like everyone's idea of a summer theatre--fun, by Nichols, Times. The book is cheerfully informal and is as warm and friendly as the dream audiences, who do not always follow life.

THEATRE

RECORD

COMMENTS

Bells Are Ringing original cast disc (Columbia) received diverse views from 2 reviewers. Kupferberg, Herald Tribune, recommended record as able to keep theatre-goers happy at home by a blend of music, both musical and comical. But Wilson, Times, feared that without Judy Holliday the bells would be tolling dolefully. Lyrics especially, he noted, seem to lean much too frequently on the authors' past.



THEATRE

TV

COMMENTS

Romeo and Juliet production of Old Vic on NBC Producers Showcase cheered by Gould, Times as near perfect TV. Except for items that some lines had to be cut and that some lines were spoken too rapidly, Tuck, Post, agreed. But Bergman, News, found it too stagey and overbearing.

ABC drama lecture by Kerr, Herald Tribune, on relationship of drama and the physical aspects of stage, panned by Gould, Times, as oversimplified and exaggerated.



" PROS & CONS BY TMK "

A Hole in the Head is a pleasant comedy-cartoon that can provide an entertaining evening in the theatre if it isn't taken too seriously. Well acted by talented crew of comedians, presented on a fascinating turntable set, and directed at a break neck pace, the sole complaint is the very weak comedy ending.

* *

Ziegfeld Follies, 1957 mode, inspite of obvious talents of Bea Lillie and Billy De Wolfe, inspite of the brief introduction of a trio of attractive, talented gals, remains dull. Not bad, just dull. Lack of funny sketches and good songs are to blame.

* *

Right You Are is a handsome, well-acted production of Pirandello's ever-fascinating, but seldom seen play. Though pace varies from speedy to too damn slow, intellectual byplay holds the Off-Broadway fan's interest throughout.

The Anatomist is interesting historically to see the type of English Restoration play the British touring companies presented in the Colonies in 1750. But for the most part the current production on 4th St lacks the style and grace necessary for proper evaluation.

* *

Tennessee Williams invented the one-man TV interview. On NBC Wide Wide World he interviewed himself, the questions asked on tape. This may lead to the one man or one woman Williams play.

* *

Phoenix Theatre's solution to the "student ticket" problem seems like the most sensible plan to date. Free tickets are given for children under 13 when accompanied by adult --who buys an adult ticket. Thus both youngster and adult can enjoy the current production of Taming of the Shrew at a modest over-all price. This plan applies only to current production and only to week-end performances. But it certainly bears watching by all,---producers, educators and theatre fans.

* *

The function of the reviewer as a reporter is often forgotten by the very same people, professionals and laymen, who damn the critics. Though many comedies this season were panned because the individual critic just did not think they were funny, almost every critic noted in passing that the first night audience had a wonderful time.

* *

For a living history of the theatre Off-Broadway is the perfect course for the theatre-fan to elect. Skipping the personal, though sometimes obvious reasons, why any given off-Broadway show is produced, the determined though often foot and bottom-sore follower of Off-Broadway can see the best of the works of famous playwrights.

* *

Add Who Says Theatre Dead Dept: A wanderer on Broadway asked a second night visitor to Ziegfeld Follies if show at Winter Garden was "live" or a film. When informed of former he bought \$8.05 ticket for the same evening.

* *

d

g.